DESCRIPTION

An official journal of the The Royal Society for Public Health and a sister journal of Public Health in Practice.

Public Health is an international, multidisciplinary peer-reviewed journal. It publishes original papers, reviews and short reports on all aspects of the science, philosophy, and practice of public health.

It is aimed at all public health practitioners and researchers and those who manage and deliver public health services and systems. It will also be of interest to anyone involved in provision of public health programmes, the care of populations or communities and those who contribute to public health systems in any way.

Published twelve times a year, Public Health considers submissions on any aspect of public health across age groups and settings.

These include:
- Public health practice and impact
- Applied Epidemiology
- Need or impact assessments
- Health service effectiveness, management and re-design
- Health Protection including control of communicable diseases
- Health promotion and disease prevention
- Evaluation of public health programmes or interventions
- Public health governance, audit and quality
- Public health law and ethics
- Public health policy and comparisons
- Capacity in public health systems and workforce

This is not an exhaustive list and the Editors will consider articles on any issue relating to public health.

Public Health also publishes invited articles, reviews and supplements from leading experts on topical issues.
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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

Aims
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It is aimed at all public health practitioners and researchers and those who manage and deliver public health services and systems. It will also be of interest to anyone involved in provision of public health programmes, the care of populations or communities and those who contribute to public health systems in any way.

Scope
Public Health considers submissions on any aspect of public health across age groups and settings. These include:

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- Health promotion and disease prevention
- Evaluation of public health programmes or interventions
- Public health governance, audit and quality
- Public health law and ethics
- Public health policy and comparisons
- Capacity in public health systems and workforce

This is not an exhaustive list and the Editors will consider articles on any issue relating to the health of populations or the public.

Reviews and Supplements
Public Health publishes invited articles, reviews and supplements from leading experts on topical issues.

Organizations or individuals who wish to present proposals for supplements should contact the Editors at public.health@rsph.org.uk for a copy of the specific guidance on the publication of supplements.

Impact on Practice
Papers describing original research impacting on public health practice are particularly encouraged. Those describing a particular event (e.g. an outbreak of infectious disease) should be submitted as soon as possible. Fast track publication of suitable articles is possible; please contact the Editorial Office regarding this.

Papers are invited from anywhere in the world, and so authors are asked to ensure that sufficient context is provided for all readers to appreciate their contribution.

Types of paper
The types of papers that may be considered for inclusion are:
1) Original research, including evaluations of public health interventions or programmes, and public health practice original work on audit, workforce or resource development (see section 4.2);
2) Short communications (see section 4.3) and;
3) Review papers, which include meta-analysis and systematic review (see section 4.4)

We also consider the following papers:
1) Letters (see section 4.5);
2) Celebrating Public Health Lives: biographical articles about named individuals, living or deceased, who have made a special contribution to public health (see section 4.6).
We welcome student papers and encourage students to publish their work, e.g. originating from practice-based research, which will be subject to constructive peer review process.

On submission, authors should indicate in which category their contribution is to be considered. If authors are uncertain of the category to which their paper is best suited, they should make this clear in their covering letter to the Editors.

You may wish to consider referring to the Equator guidelines http://www.equator-network.org/, when submitting your paper

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Papers submitted to Public Health are carefully reviewed in the first instance by one of the Editors. Papers that do not meet editorial needs; are methodically flawed; or lack originality will be rejected. We will also reject papers that fail to provide sufficient ethical approval where required (see section 9.3) and we shall refer papers back for revision prior to any review if they do not comply with Journal style.

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Article structure
4.2 Original research, including evaluation papers
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Papers should be clear, precise and logical and should not normally exceed 3,000 words.

Original research papers should be set out as follows:
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• Abstract. This should be structured under the following headings:
  Objectives
  Study design
  Methods
  Results
  Conclusions
  • Keywords. 3-6 keywords should follow the abstract
  • Introduction
  • Methods
  • Results
  • Discussion
  • Acknowledgements including declarations: Statements of ethical approval, funding and competing interests (see section 9)
  • References (see section 10)

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A short communication is preferred for the submission of important preliminary observations or data that does not warrant publication as a full paper. Short communications should be approximately 500-1500 words in length and provide adequate information to allow for the same peer review given to other submissions.

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- Keywords will also be required. However, specific sections, such as Methods, should not be used in the manuscript itself.

- A short communication can include one table or figure and up to 10 references. Preliminary data published as a short communication will not preclude subsequent publication of more complete results if the work is significantly expanded.

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4.6 Celebrating Public Health Lives

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